

2001-014-169



"John Hogan" <jhogan@up.net> on 06/05/2001 08:17:35 PM

To: meeting.2001-014@gsa.gov  
cc:

Subject: Proposed rule change

To whom it may concern:

After being made aware of the proposed rule change I came to your site to see for myself if your newly proposed rule would suffice in safeguarding the well-being of workers involved in federal projects. My conclusion is that they are not adequately protected when that protection is left up to an individuals personal decision instead of being a point of law. I have had personal experience in situations with less-than-trustworthy companies leaving workers with unpaid wages, and benefits. One such company left me laid-off with 3 months of unpaid insurance benefits due that they were responsible to pay. As a laid-off young man with a wife and 4 children I did not need the added expense of paying \$450/month for insurance which had already been deducted from my wage package - but not paid to the carrier. Another company left me with 4 weeks of unpaid wages being owed to me.

I do not think it is being unfair to any business to require them to be law-abiding corporate citizens for 3 years in order to bid on federal projects. It is like breaking the motor vehicle laws in your state - most states wipe the slate of offenses 3 years after they were committed and a persons ability to get lower insurance rates and have a clean record is restored. I don't think corporate America should be treated any differently than the individual citizens - the worse your record is the more it costs you. You and I know that and they should too.

If any change is to be made to the law to take any burden off the companies then I suggest that, for the purpose of enforcing this particular law, all companies could start out with a clean slate and all be allowed to bid on projects with the clear understanding that any future violations will be held against them. That way all will start out as equals but the violators will be taken out of the bidding process in due time if they continue their past practices.

Sincerely,

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